



Regional Service Council Minutes Region # 10

Meeting Date: September 21, 2007

Meeting Location: Mary Stewart Conference Room, Indianapolis

Council Members Present: Chair Rhonda Allen, MCDCS; Maribryan McGeney, MCDCS; Mary Ann West, MCDCS; Susie Kennedy, MCDCS; Cindy Booth, Child Advocates

Council Members Absent: Judge Beth Jansen, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division; Judge Marilyn Moores, Marion Superior Court- Juvenile Division; Maggie Cooper, Foster Parent; Diana Berluson, Marion County Juvenile Court; Taren Duncan, MCDCS

Others In Attendance: Chris Ball, Probation; D'Andrea Abdulla, DCS; Julie Woodnem, Goodwill Industries; Sandy Rezmer, Dockside Services; David Eilar, Wernle Children's Home; Carmen Young, Resource; George Hurd, YFCS; Janice Klein, Children's Bureau; Patty Jewell, Bethany Christian Services; Linda Wrestler, Bethany Christian Services; Frances Dailey, Bethany Christian Services; Carolyn Langan, Family Service; Diane Jackson, Villages; Jonelle Redelman, Law Student Observer; Shawna Webster, Interact; C.L. Day, NOAH; Grant Gray, Adult and Child; Laura Green, Family Works; Angela Reid-Brown, DCS; Brant Ping, Child & Adolescent Placement Project; Kellie Gunnell, Child & Adolescent Placement Project

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Called to Order at: 9:13 a.m. There was not a quorum for this meeting.

I. Call the Meeting to Order

II. Approval of Minutes

- a) The minutes from the last meeting were approved with no corrections.
- b) Minutes will be available on the DCS website. The minutes will be put on the website after Regional Service Council approves the minutes.

- c) Council members and others in attendance should check the website for any cancellations.

III. Old Business

a) Marion County Community Transition Program

(Requires council approval)

- i. Chris Ball distributed a handout showing the current grants being used for the program. They are as follows: DOC grant, OJJDP grant, and DOJ grant. These grants will run out by October of this year. Ball stated she has contacted the other 4 regions using the CTP program to see how they are getting funding. Lake County is now receiving funding from their DCS Child and Family fund. Ball is asking Marion County to fund the CTP program when the current grants run out. The cost of the program is \$900,000. Ball doesn't believe the funding will go any higher because the number of kids in the program shouldn't go any higher. The city county council did deny all funding for the JDAI programs. Ball stated she is actively looking for other funding.
- ii. The question was raised if there is any data on the program to see if it is working. Ball stated that there is data and it shows a drop in recidivism from 25% to 7% in one year. She then stated that it saves the county money because it cost less to provide prevention then to send the kids back to DOC.
- iii. There was one recommendation given from the council. West asked if there was a way to cut expenses from the providers in the next RFP. Ball said it is possible, but the next RFP isn't due out until July.
- iv. Ping stated with no current recommendations for how to provide funding at this time, we should table the issue until next months meeting. Allen agreed and the issue will be on October's agenda.

b) NACS Amendment

- i. NACS cost 1.3 million dollars to run all four sites. They are currently asking for a 14 month extension to the contract so they can get on the state timeline. They are also requesting to raise the monthly rate ten dollars, instead of charging a hire rate the first month and lower rate the forth month. McGeney asked how we can give an increase for each month when there is no money to accommodate a raise. Klein stated they are not

asking for more money, just to rearrange the way they receive their funding.

- ii. Kennedy stated that Marion County receives a lot from NACS which helps keep the families out of the system and in turn cost the county much less money. Allen asked how many families are served a year by NACS. Klein stated in 2006 there were 708 families served and to date for 2007 there have been 686 families served.
- iii. Allen stated she won't cut preventative services and then asked Klein when NACS needs an answer for the increase and the contract extension. Klein stated they need a new contract by the end of November. Allen asked if anyone can give a breakdown of the funding from Community Partners, IV-B and DCS to NACS. There were no exact figures at this time. Allen stated we would look into this more and have it on October's agenda.

c) Family Profiling Rates

- i. West spoke with the three agencies chosen to provide services. The agencies prices were very different. The issues with cost from the agencies were do to the time to do the CANS assessment. West asked agencies to give a "per child" rate. Bethany couldn't come up with a per-child rate because their services would cost more per child. Children's Bureau reported they would be \$430 per profile, although their original bid stated they would be \$200 per family. The villages stated their per child rate would be a \$493 average per family, but the cost goes up with each additional child in a family. Kennedy asked how many families each agency stated they can serve with their original bid. Children's Bureau's original bid was for 1000 families for both bonding and profiling, although they were not chosen to do bonding. Bethany stated they can serve 425 families annually. These are also combined numbers for profiling and bonding. Bethany was chosen to do both services. The villages stated they can serve 100 families and they are not providing bonding services. The average number of families given parenting assessments in 2006 was 135 a month for the year. Ping reminded everyone that these numbers should go down as the family teaming goes up.
- ii. West asked for recommendations from the council. She then stated that she recommends that we give contracts to all three

because when looking at the number of families served in the past, it will take all three agencies to accommodate the expected numbers in the future. Ping then recommended we table the issue until the next meeting due to not having a quorum. Allen agreed and the issue will be put on October's agenda.

d) Mallon House

i. Children's Bureau needs a doctor on their board for this issue. They also need another fire inspection. United Way has funded all of the renovations.

IV. New Business

a) Home Based RFP

- i. West handed out a draft of the home based RFP. She stated she has been meeting with providers, case managers and supervisors to get input on home based services. West stated she is concerned about the release of the RFP since there is not a quorum at this meeting. Reid-Brown stated there has already been a vote to pass this RFP, therefore although recommendations may be needed today the RFP should still be released on time.
- ii. West stated there are some significant changes to the home based program through this RFP. This RFP ends the current level system and moves the agencies to an hourly rate. It will make it much easier for the providers to do their jobs as well as for DCS to accommodate families through teaming. Ping asked about how DCS plans to control the cost. West stated the hours will be capped on a case by case basis. Ping asked how DCS plans to handle cases where the parents are non-compliant due to drug and alcohol programs not being completed. West stated they are planning to move the home-based program from the reunification side to the preventative side and ask the family to start the program at the beginning of the case. This would eliminate the drug and alcohol issue. Booth stated she feels that the magistrates will need to be trained on this because home based services have always been an "award" for families when all other programs are complete. Allen stated Marion County is the only county that puts home based services at the end of a case.

- iii. The recommendation from the council is to keep the RFP as is and on the time line. The release will be posted in the paper next week.

b) SMY Services (Discussion)

- i. West stated there are SMY services with contracts that aren't being utilized and she wants the council to know this. She stated one of these services is home based. She stated the new home based RFP has a section relating to sexually maladaptive youth and she feels that when this part of the SMY contract ends in December, we should not extend it but add it to the home based contract instead. The individual and group counseling are also not being utilized as they should be. West stated she believes these children are receiving services, just not through the SMY contract. Allen stated there may be an increase in these referrals since DCS now has a specialized unit for SMY. She then stated it doesn't make sense to continue or extend a contract for something that is not working.
- ii. Allen stated she feels we need to continue the discussion on the entire SMY contracts because if we don't extend the contracts, we may be "cutting an agency off". Ping then stated there needs to be notification to the SMY agencies contracted for home based services that the contract will not be extended, but instead the service is being added to the regular home based RFP. This will give those agencies a chance to bid on the home based RFP if they weren't planning on doing so.

c) Day Reporting Program

- i. The Day Reporting Program will cut down on the numbers in detention and residential care. It cost \$80 a day which overall is cheaper to have 25 kids in this program than it is to have 9 kids in residential care. The program is funded through Goodwill Industries and is based on best practices. Due to the fact there is no quorum at this meeting, this issue will be on the October agenda.

Next Meeting Date, Location and Time: October 19, 9:00 a.m. at the Mary Stewart Conference Room.

Meeting Adjourned at: 10:45